What is claimed is:

1. A high voltage surge protection device adapted for use in a CATV system that includes a coaxial cable having a central conductor, an outer conductor concentrically positioned in surrounding relation thereto, and a dielectric layer disposed between the central and outer conductors, said surge protection device comprising:
a. a housing having an input end and a body portion that defines an internal cavity;
b. an electronic component positioned within said cavity; and
c. an electrically conductive, surge protective element positioned between said input end and said electronic component, and in electrically operative communication with said body portion.

2. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 1, wherein said electrically conductive, surge protection element includes a body defining a central opening and positioned in electrically operative communication with said body portion of said housing, and at least one prong extending radially inwardly from said body.

3. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 1, wherein said electrically conductive surge protection element is of a predetermined width that is about 0.020 inches.

4. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 1, wherein said electrical component includes a conductive pin extending forwardly therefrom and is adapted to be in electrical communication with the central conductor of the coaxial cable.

5. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 4, wherein said surge protection device is positioned in circumferentially surrounding relation to said conductive pin.

6. A method for providing an alternate path to ground of a high voltage surge carried by a coaxial cable in a CATV distribution system, prior to the surge passing through a coaxial cable connector having an input end, a body portion defining an internal cavity, an electrical component positioned within the cavity, and an input pin extending forwardly from the electrical component toward the input end and adapted for electrical

interconnection to the central conductor of the coaxial cable, said method comprising the steps of:

a. positioning an electrically conductive surge protection device in electrically operative relation to said body portion of said connector and in circumferentially surrounding relation to said input pin; and

b. maintaining an air gap of predetermined size between said surge protection device and said input pin.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said surge protection device includes a body that is positioned in electrically operative relation to said body portion of said connector, and at least one prong extending radially inwardly therefrom toward said input pin.

8. A high voltage surge protection device adapted for use in a CATV system that includes a coaxial cable having a central conductor, an outer conductor concentrically positioned in surrounding relation thereto, and a dielectric layer disposed between the central and outer conductors, said surge protection device comprising:

a. a housing having an input end and a body portion that defines an internal cavity;

b. an electronic component positioned within said cavity and including an electrically conductive pin having a terminal end and extending outwardly therefrom towards said input end;

c. a head formed on said terminal end of said pin; and

d. an electrically conductive, surge protective element comprising at least one prong formed on and extending radially outwardly from said head.

9. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 8, wherein said head is shaped in the form of a star.

10. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 8, wherein said head is shaped in the form of a sinusoidal curve.

11. The high voltage surge protection device of claim 8, wherein said surge protection device further comprises a body positioned in circumferentially surrounding relation to

said head, and in electrically operative communication with said body portion of said housing.